(al´ mə jest´)

March 23, The Year 2000 | ***The Almagest*** *Answering the question with a question* | Volume 37, Number 7

"Smurfing" threatens LSUS's computers

by Mark Rogers

Shelby Keith, the director of computing services said, in an email that last Monday's campus e-mail crash was because the database is too large to hold all of the old e-mails. The email system will be replaced in the fall. Another scheduled update should shield against a different threat to LSUS computing mainframe: "smurfing."

Smurfing floods the resources of a targeted web site and results in a denial of service to users. This is the tactic that was used to shut down various high-profile sites such as "Yahoo" last month.

Computer programmers have a command called "ping," which is like the sonar for a submarine. One computer sends a ping to another computer. The second computer bounces the signal back with information so that the first computer knows things like how far away the computer is and how fast they can communicate. It is possible to send up to twenty pings at one time.

The danger of abuse comes if the pinged computer is a server that relays the ping to multiple computers that respond separately to that one ping. Class C servers can handle up to 254 terminals. That's 254 replies to one ping. LSUS has four class C servers.

The next step is called "spoofing," which means lying about a return address. Basically, a hacker can send out twenty pings to twenty servers each with 250 active terminals, which results in 5,000 ping responses to a falsified address. The overload causes a loss of service to legitimate users.

According to Shelby Keith, director of computing services, LSUS monitors for systems abuses and is currently taking steps to insure security of its Internet users. Its servers don't contribute to smurfing because they filter out false addresses, and its servers respond to pings from valid addresses with a single ping that contains a list of its active terminals.

"Because we are a university we try to allow freedom for the people on campus with security to keep people from bringing down our system or going through us to do things that they don't need to be doing," Keith said.

Software that verifies the validity of addresses and filters out false addresses was installed three weeks ago.

Computing services is currently installing a "firewall" to protect LSUS Internet users. This firewall scans incoming e-mail for viruses, blocks off-site computers from accessing campus computers, and blocks campus access to sites with high bandwidth that can slow the network down. The firewall costs $15,000 for the software and about $1,500 for an additional computer terminal. "It is money that's well spent, because it doesn't take but a few instances of maliciousness to really cause a lot of problems," Keith said.

The only incident of maliciousness so far occured about a month ago when somebody from Europe bounced mass e-mails off of the campus e-mail. Legitimate incoming and outgoing campus mail got bogged down, but there was no permanent damage.

With the firewall in place, it is hoped, the smurf village will disappear.

Sex, passion and intimacy come to the university center theater

Ellen Gootblatt, nationally syndicated advice columnist, author, and radio talkshow host give a lecture,"Sex, Passion, and Intimacy" at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 23 in the LSUS University Center theater.

Gootblatt's lectures focus on relationship issues important to students, couples, parents, and singles seeking practical relationship advice.

She hosted the #1 rated ABC evening radio talk show, "Getting together with Ellen Gootblatt.

Tickets are $3 for students and $6 for the general public. For more information contact Student Activities Board at 797 5393.

BASEBALL

Ready for a conference, the Pilot's coverage is on page 7. No lie.

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The Almagest

("al-meh-jest", n):Arabic: "The Majestic"
any of several medieval treatises on a branch of knowledge (as the 9th century Arabic translation of Ptolemy's Greek work on astronomy)
- Webster's Third New International Dictionary

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The Almagest is a member of the Southeastern Journalism Conference, American College Press Association, and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association

From The Editor

Viewing representative democracy in action on campus this week, I believe our founding fathers would be happy as delegates to LSUS.

After all, at the Student Government Association this week, there was one person running for president, one person running for vice president, one person running for the college of education senator, and one person running for the college of business senator. What more could a freedom loving American want than the absence of choice?

At the risk of sounding cynical, this SGA election was a farce. The people who did run should be congratulated. I'm happy to give people credit for trying.

Other races were a little tighter. The race for the college of liberal arts senator was as the best two people out of three. The same thing happened for the college of science.

Out of ten people running, only two will be walking away without a win. And with the parameters for voting, only people who major in the college of science or liberal arts need to vote. As either an education major or a business major, if you didn't vote, don't fret. Your vote wouldn't have counted.

Of course, if you didn't vote, you wouldn't have gotten the flyer for a super cellular phone deal. Being heard is primary to democracy.

And the option is open to go through all of the rigamorole for the opportunity to press 00, which signifies that you chose not to vote. This was an obvious ploy to increase voter turn-out, but the oxymoronical view that voting to not vote counts as a vote is enough to make me cynical.

Where did the process fail? Why didn't many people decide to run in the election. It could have something to do with the fact that the SGA has spent the past weeks just appointing anyone who asked to be appointed at a meeting. Possibly. But because it's in the SGA bylaws, it must be good representative government.

Who is at fault? It's obvious to me that the Almagest is to blame for low participation, low voter turn out and the so called apathy of the campus. It least that's what I hear. I hear that if the Almagest didn't continually cover the SGA, and dissect every move, more people would be likely. Sorry about your elections.

-br

Calendar of Events

This week:
Early Registration for Summer/Fall 2000 has begun.
The LSUS Student Art Show is being held in the UC Art Gallery
Next week: **Spring Break!**
Baseball Schedule:

March 27th: LSUS vs. Belhaven College in Jackson, Miss. at 1:00 p.m.
March 28th: LSUS vs. William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss. at 2:00 p.m.
March 29th LSUS vs. University of Mobile in Mobile, Ala. at 2:00 p.m.
March 30th LSUS vs. Springhill College in Mobile, Ala. at 1:00 p.m.
March 31st LSUS vs. Wiley College in Marshall, Texas at 1:00 p.m.
April 1st LSUS vs. Wiley College in Marshall, Texas at 12 noon.

Got a story?
Call the Almagest at 797-5328 Email us at *almagest@pilot.lsus.edu*

The Almagest Letters Policy

The Almagest requests your reactions through Letters to the Editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your class and major field of study. Letters should be submitted to ***The Almagest*** office, BH 344, by noon on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed. ***The Almagest*** reserves the right to edit letters. ❑

Editorial Comment:Feminism feels good

by Aaron Sartori

Progress has overcome the elements of nature with the late 20th century's explosion of science and technology, but has our humanity grown by the leaps and bounds that our technology has?

Women's rights have come a long way in America, from the adventures of Harriet Tubman fighting slavery with the underground railroad, to the '70s revival of the Feminist Movement by such activist groups as the Chicago Women's Liberation Movement.

In today's climate, women may have actually come to a monumental position in America. For example, Madeline Albright has become the highest-ranking woman to serve in the U.S. government, as Secretary of State.

Even though women may be more accepted throughout our society and have more rights than ever, an ominous cloud hovers over the issue of domestic violence against women.

In 1998, The National Institute of Justice partnered with the Center for Disease Control to publish a report entitled *Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from The National Violence Against Women Survey* which said, "25% of surveyed women, compared with 8% of surveyed men, said they were raped, and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date at some time in their life."

Although, physical violence is the legal definition of domestic violence, the working definition includes "Coercion, threats, intimidation, and emotional, sexual, or economic abuse."

With the prevalence of violence against women, one would expect a definitive effort to curb such barbaric acts.

As part of the 1994 Crime Act, The Violence Against Women Act made it a federal crime to cross state lines to continue to abuse a spouse or partner, added tough new penalties for sex offenders, and prohibited anyone facing a restraining order for domestic abuse from possessing a fire arm.

The Violence Against Women Act also provided $1.6 billion over six years for police, prosecutors and prevention services.

Although, it was a powerful federal crime bill, the 1994 Violence Against Women Act has recently come to a screeching halt.

On March 5th, the 4th United States Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the act was unconstitutional.

The decision was brought about as part of a case in which Christy Brzonkala had filed a lawsuit against two Virginia Tech football players, Antonio Morrison and James Crawford, for an alleged rape.

Aaron Sartori's rugged good looks make him a natural choice as a pin-up model for the girls next door.

The United States 4th Circuit Court of Appeals argued that under a previous Supreme Court ruling, Congress "could not regulate purely private conduct," therefor making it unconstitutional to allow any party injured by a gender motivated crime "to obtain compensatory damages, punitive damages, and injunctive, declaratory, or other appropriate relief, id."

Ms. Brzonkala's lawyer has said that the case would be appealed to the Supreme Court.

Even if we were to turn to state protection The National Institute if Justice published a report entitled *The Rights of Crime Victims -Does Legal Protection Make a Difference* that explained that even in certain states that have strong legal programs and laws, overall victim satisfaction with judicial system was low.

The 1998 report on victims rights involves a great amount of significance in that not only do the victims of violent crimes receive inadequate treatment, but with unsatisfied people comes the spread of their unsatisfied views leaving an overall lack of confidence in the judicial system.

Something definitely has to change within the American social atmosphere, so injustices against women will become less and less frequent an event.

Whether they are calling you "Big Daddy!" or you're begging for their forgiveness, Women are number one.

The National Domestic Hotline can be reached at 1-800-797-safe or 1-800-787-3224.

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SGA library proposal turned down

by Scott Balcerzak

During last week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, the proposal to extend the Noel Memorial Library's hours of operation was turned done by Dr. Alan D. Gabehart, Assistant Dean of the library. The SGA's proposal, which would have extended the hours of operation by more than 17 hours a week and would have left the library open 24 hours a day during Finals Week, was deemed too costly. As of the March 13th meeting, the possibility of a compromise of an extension of Sunday's hours was still being considered. The library is currently open 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends.

Dr. Gloria Raines, SGA Advisor and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, believes that such a compromise might be plausible. "I think longer hours on Sunday is a possibility," Raines said. "Since many students work much of the weekend, Sunday night is a major cram night."

During the meeting, Dr. Gabehart stated that the original proposal would have cost an extra $5,400 a semester and that budgetary constraints have been high since a recent cut of nearly $60,000 from the library's budget. Student attendance at the library was also considered when Gabehart showed the senators charts which confirmed that the largest amounts of LSUS students use the library Monday through Thursday, which are days that would be unaffected by the SGA's original proposal.

"It is an important issue," Raines said. "But many colleges that extend (library) hours have problems with people showing up." During the meeting, many senators present admitted that they usually study somewhere else besides the library and an extension of Sunday's hours would not necessarily affect their personal study habits. "Basically, we need to see a commitment by the students if there is to be any extra funding for this matter," Raines said.

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SGA raffles parking spots

by Scott Balcerzak

Any student voting in this week's Student Government Association (SGA) election will be eligible to win one of the SGA's three designated parking spots, which are positioned close to the three colleges on campus. During the March 15th SGA meeting, the raffle was decided upon in an effort to improve voter turnout. Current SGA President Stephanie McKinzie believes that the raffle also solves the problem the senators have faced in the past concerning the open parking spots. "The fairest thing to do concerning the spots is to raffle them off to the students," McKinzie said.

During a special open forum meeting on March 16th, the candidates gave brief addresses to the students present. While the candidates for the offices of president, vice president, and senators of the Colleges of Education and Business are running unopposed, the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Science both feature races with three candidates. The students running for the College of Liberal Arts are Jerry Sumrall, Shawn Hanes, and Erica Eakin. The race in the College of Science features Madiha Jamil, Kristi Scott, and Jena Martino.

The raffle and open forum meeting are just some of the initiatives the SGA has taken in recent weeks to improve voter turnout. The SGA also has plans to offer food and the use of cellular phones for student voters between the hours of 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 p.m. on March 21st and 23rd in the University Center. Students are also able to vote from home by dialing 798-LSUS (5787) and using the procedure found on the ballets that have been sent to every LSUS student. The phone lines are open between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on March 20th -26th.

Problem from Hell

Let N be a positive integer. Then we define N - factorial, to be the product $N \cdot (N-1) \cdot (n-2) \cdots 2 \cdot 1$ and define $0!=1$. For example, $3!=3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1=6$.
Question: Determine the remainder when $(0!+1!+2+\cdots+64)^2$ is divided by 5.

Solution to last week's problem. The only set of primes of the form $(p, p+2, p+4)$ is (3,5,7). To see this, notice that given any set of three consecutive integers, one of them must be divisible by 3. Also note that $p+1$ is divisible by 3 if and only if $p+4$ is. Therefore none of the elements is divisible by 3 if and only none of $(p, p+1, p+2)$ is. Now 3 is the only prime number divisible by itself, which makes (3,5,7) the only one.

Please submit solutions to Dr. Vekovius of the LSUS Mathematics Department in BH 420. Include your name and phone number. Prizes will be awarded.

Valentine hired to recruit for LSUS

by Christy Avery

LSUS hired a new recruiter to help bring more students into the university. Michael S. Valentine, graduate of North Eastern, has been hired to assist Nicole L. Shelby and Kelli R. Stevens with the Student Recruitment Program.

Dr. Gloria Raines, vice chancellor of student affairs, said, "Recruitment is a real challenge," because, "There are fewer scholarships, and the recruitment budget is small." Being in a highly competitive area, Raines feels that more money needs to be put into recruitment.

Because of the struggle with budget cuts, Raines also mentioned that for many years, "There was no one to recruit students, so members of student affairs went out."

Raines does not feel that this has been an effective approach, simply because, enrollment has been static over the past 15 years and to recruit someone, Raines said, "You have to know what you are doing", especially when there is competition, economy, no scholarships and no service or student life on campus. When it comes to recruitment, Raines feels that students are more influenced by their own peers rather than parental role models.

Most effective for recruitment Raines said is, "a recruiter just out of college." Also, Raines said, "The feedback is better."

The recruiters are responsible for visiting high schools and contacting students for enrollment. The recruitment areas covered are: Arkansas, east Texas and Louisiana.

Heavy recruitment is done in the target areas during the fall, with the college fair. In the spring, with an open house, high school students are invited to come out and tour the school, visit classes, stay over night in the apartments, receive information about the school and ask questions about the school. Also during the spring, an awards banquet is held for outstanding high school students.

The recruiters hold college fairs with the aid of the Louisiana Association of Collegiate Registers and Admissions Office(LAOCRAO), at the high schools. Nicole Shelby, a recruiter for two years, said, "It's a great program." During the fair students browse and view presentations, are given information packets and are encouraged to enroll in the university.

Valentine, the newest recruiter, said, "It's exciting, sitting down a lot and brainstorming about other ways to get students on campus."

Valentine also said with the open house, high school students get to visit all the different departments on campus.

Shelby, a graduate of LSUS, said, "It feels good to be back on campus", she also feels that students coming in will be able to relate to her, since she is a former student of LSUS.

Both Shelby and Valentine agree that recruitment is a highly demanding and time consuming job, but the work relations, according to Valentine are great.

Valentine said the salaries are competitive. When asked if satisfied with the pay, Valentine said, "We're not getting robbed."

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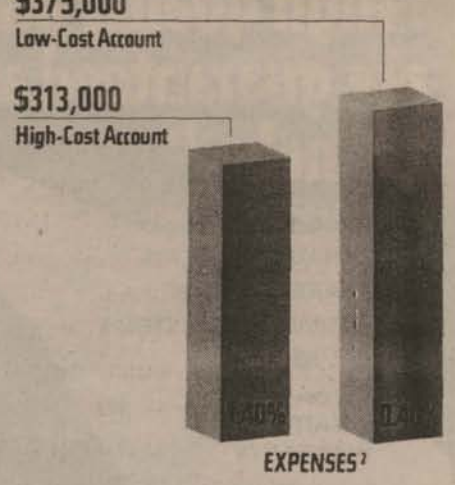

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Flannery O'Conner's legacy: lupus, irony

by Aaron Sartori

On March 25, Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, Ga., will unveil "Flannery O'Connor : A Celebration of Genius" on the 75th anniversary of O'Connor's birthday.

Master of ceremonies, Sarah Gordon, is currently editing "A Celebration of Genius" and is editor of the Flannery O'Connor Bulletin, an annual critical review of Flannery O'Connor's works and the longest running journal of a woman author in America.

Gordon has invited all interested parties to enjoy cake and champagne, and converse freely about everything from the life of young O'Connor to her true literary greatness.

Notably absent from the press release and Gordon's press conference announcing the event are the circumstances surrounding Flannery O'Connor's death.

Flannery O'Connor is one of the most celebrated women authors of the 20th century , but the fact remains that on August 3, 1964, she died of lupus.

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease, which causes inflammation of various parts of the body, especially the skin, joints, blood, and kidneys.

O'Connor

As lupus progresses, the body slowly deteriorates due to antibodies, used to attack viruses, bacteria, and foreign material, attacking the body itself, which causes inflammation.

O'Connor experienced a gradual decline in health from extensive treatment, to hospitalization, and finally into a coma before death.

Most readers may be asking themselves: "Why lupus? I've never heard of it."

The truth of the matter is that more people are infected with lupus than AIDS, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, sickle-cell anemia, and cystic fibrosis all combined.

In most cases, lupus is only a mild disorder, but in many cases lupus can be life threatening.

At least 2,000 Americans die every year from lupus.

Symptoms can range from a simple rash and arthritis to severe complications of vital organs.

Treatment for lupus is readily available from the simple use of ibuprofen to the use of non-anabolic steroids.

O'Connor herself could not have written a more ironic tale.

Champagne and cake over the celebration of a dead woman's birth while the education of the masses is quietly tucked away into the appendices of O' Connor's life.

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Pilots find their pot of gold on St. Pat's weekend

by Ryan Sanford

Forget about the soothsayer's warning of "Beware the ides of March."

LSUS head baseball coach Rocke Musgraves wasn't listening. Instead, the Pilots found some early St. Patty's Day luck—- rather, they made their own luck, handily sweeping their three game series with the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Rangers on St. Patrick's Day weekend.

Perhaps the bard had the Rangers in mind when he penned the famous warning, as the Pilots showed them less mercy than fate itself..

The weekend sweep was due in no small part to three outstanding performances from the Pilots hurlers. The fact that the LSUS hitters produced 26 runs in the three games is almost an afterthought for Musgraves, who knows his pitching staff will be on the spot as conference play approaches.

"We have had outstanding starting pitching in seven of our last eight games, that's going to be the key for us if we are going to win this year." Musgraves added, "we have had no problem scoring runs this season. If we can hold the opponent to five runs or less we will win ninety percent of our games."

The Pilots pitchers used Musgraves' formula to a tee, allowing only eight runs in the three games, four of which were unearned.

Josh Constant tossed a nine-inning complete game on Friday, holding the Rangers' bats to only five hits and one earned run, while striking out six as the Pilots rolled to an 11-2 victory.

The senior right-hander has staked his claim to the number one spot in the rotation with three stalwart outings in a row, including his near no-hitter against Centenary College two weeks ago. Musgraves likes what he has seen of late from his ace.

"Josh has clearly stepped up his game on the mound. That's what we need out of him and all of our guys as we go into conference."

Russel Bowker got the call in game one of Saturday's twinbill and was equally as impressive, throwing six innings of three hit baseball, giving up only one run in the Pilots' 4-1 victory.

Scott Perrin drove in three of LSUS's four runs and Nathan Teater and Cayce Burkett added two hits apiece.

Greg Wyatt was perfect once again out of the bullpen, finishing off the Rangers in the seventh for his third save. Wyatt, who Musgraves calls a "prototype closer," lowered his already microscopic ERA to 0.73.

The junior righthander has given up only six hits in twelve plus innings of work and opponents are batting a measly .136 against him.

Musgraves said, "Wyatt has gained confidence every time he has gone out there and he continues to gain confidence with every outing, that's why he has been so good."

In game three, Eric Whatley came out the pen in the third inning with the Pilots trailing 5-2 and shutout the Rangers for the final five innings, surrendering only one hit and fanning six for his first win. Whatley's performance allowed his teammates a chance to battle back and take the lead, as they scored six times in the fourth on route to an 11-5 win, completing the sweep.

Cayce Burkett went four for four, including his third homerun of the year in the third inning, and drove in five runs. Scott Perrin raised his average to .424 with three more hits and Scott Forte, Brent Mott, and Daniel Hermes all added two hits in the come-from-behind win.

photo by Mark Rogers

Catcher Mike Martino #24 tags a Milliken College player out at home plate.

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